

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>ASPIRE PROJECT</b>
<b>Meeting and Date:</b>	<b>Cabinet – 6 July 2020</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Brinley Hill, Head of Community and Digital Services</b>
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	<b>Councillor MJ Holloway, Portfolio Holder for Community and Tourism</b>
<b>Decision Type:</b>	<b>Non-Key Decision</b>
<b>Classification:</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>
<b>Purpose of the report:</b>	To seek approval to the Council participating in the ASPIRE Project as partner.
<b>Recommendation:</b>	Cabinet is asked to approve Option 1.

## 1. Summary

- 1.1 Dover District Council participation in ASPIRE, an innovative Interreg funded FCE (France/Channel/England) programme to support people who are unemployed to reach a healthy weight and gain employment in areas where levels of unemployment and obesity are abnormally high. Using partner expertise and combining employability skills and healthier lifestyle choices, ASPIRE will support people to achieve their health and career goals.

## 2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 In February 2020 Dover District Council was approached to support a multi partner cross-border project to support communities in tackling health and unemployment inequality in the Dover District. This approach was made following the withdrawal of Hadlow College/Betteshanger Park due to a cease of their operations. This provided an opportunity to ensure that a project worth 1.2million over three years remained in the district; underpinning the current delivery of the Community Development Officers across the district. Working alongside 'Your Leisure' we will deliver the Dover element of the programme to ensure the benefits remain in the district. After agreement with the Health and Europe Centre as lead project partner, DDC will allocate a Community Development Officer for 3 years, to assist in highlighting appropriate communities / individuals who would benefit from participation on the programme in the Dover District and then support the deliverable pathways of these individuals in their journeys. Providing support to Your Leisure who will lead on the Community Health Hub direct delivery element. This will be funded as part of the agreed Dover element of the project from ERDF (European Regional Development Funding) funds of £910K (see breakdown below at **5.2**) at cost of £146k. This will give no additional financial liability on DDC due to permitted inclusions of management costs and administrative sundries that are already budgeted for, which will be covered as the match funding costs of £66k over three years *of the project*.
- 2.2 The project has a total budget of over 10 million euros and involves partners from across southern England and northern France to run over the next three years.  
  
ASPIRE (Adding to Social capital and individual Potential In disadvantaged Regions) has received more than 7 million euros from the European Regional Development Fund.

ASPIRE is an innovative programme to support people who are unemployed to reach a healthy weight and gain employment in areas where levels of unemployment and obesity are abnormally high. Using partner expertise and combining employability skills and healthier lifestyle choices, ASPIRE will support people to achieve their health and career goals.

The project will provide a holistic approach to lowering obesity and unemployment rates in identified communities where these two issues are common and definitively linked. A recent Gallup poll shows that the longer a person is unemployed, the higher the rates of obesity, with rates reaching up to 32.7% after a year or more of unemployment.

- 2.3 The aim of this project will be to improve the relationship that our participants have with their food, with access to local health produce and consequent weight loss, and to provide them with the skills and support needed to successfully gain employment

### 3. Identification of Options

- 3.1 Option 1 – DDC participates in the programme as an approved partner.

- 3.2 Option 2 – DDC declines to participate in the programme

### 4. Evaluation of Options

- 4.1 Option 1 - Participation in the innovative programme will ensure vital funding over the next 3 years remains in our district, to address the social, health and economic impacts that adversely affects the most vulnerable. This was already evident before the Covid-19 pandemic and will be even more beneficial post pandemic. This will assist DDC, led by the community services team, in supporting the most social and financially inactive in local communities. It will support in improving the health and well-being of residents; whilst also improving the economic well-being and employability of referred clients, so helping to support the long-term local economy in terms of work ready individuals and social impact. Considering the recent Covid 19 pandemic which has already seen the potential for large scale redundancies in the District. In addition, restrictions in movement during lockdown periods has also shown anecdotal evidence that inactivity has increased across communities with associated rises in obesity. The project will be perfectly timed to help counteract these new and emerging issues throughout our district. Supporting our residents to remain healthy, improve opportunities for future employment and providing support to the post Covid19 recovery plan for the Dover District.

- 4.2 Option 2 – By not participating in the project vital funding will be diverted to other areas of the country where the project will also run, to the detriment of individuals and local communities in the Dover District who would benefit from participation in the project.

### 5. Resource Implications

- 5.1 Capital costs - expenditure/income – zero

- 5.2 Revenue costs

**Total value of Project: €10,228,764.44 / £8,596,253**

Dover Costings Element	EUROS	POUNDS STERLING (Estimated- exchange rate 1.11 - 28 <sup>th</sup> May 2020)
<b>Agreed Total Project Value – Dover District area.</b>	€1,464,722.06	£1,319,569.42

Your Leisure / Dover DC		
ERDF Funding (69%)	€1,001,907.05	£910,502.90
Total Match Requirement (31%)	€454,063.50	£496,066.52

## 6. Revenue Implications

- (1) Cost of Community Development Officer F/T post for 3 years including on – cost is £122k. (approx. £40k per annum)
- (2) DDC will receive circa £146k for the post to include ancillaries from the ERDF.
- (3) DDC are liable for £66k over 3 years match funding which is already budgeted for in the MTFP for core departmental costs that can be recharged to cover line management, supervision, IT, HR, training costs etc.
- (4) East Kent Audit Partnership will be acting as Tier 1 level controller for DDC submissions for quarterly project costs, which is already included in ERDF funding to support this.

## 7. Climate Change and Environmental Implications

This project will have no detrimental environmental impact in the district. By running the project in the district and supporting people to learn more skills, including horticultural training this will both increase health and wellbeing across the participants, support improvements in the local environmental and provide sustainability to individuals economic futures. Due to the locality of the project this will also have minimal carbon footprint.

## 8. Corporate Implications

Comment from the Director of Finance (linked to the MTFP): “Accountancy have been consulted on the financial matters in this report and have no further comments to add. (LS)”

Comment from the Solicitor to the Council: The Solicitor to the Council has been consulted in the preparation of this report and has no further comments to make. (HR)

Comment from the Equalities Officer: This report does not specifically highlight any equality implications, however in discharging their duties members are required to comply with the public sector equality duty as set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/section/149> (KM)

## 9. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Detailed project synopsis

Appendix 2 – provisional key project outcomes.

Appendix 3 – infographics highlighting the methodology and project framework.

## 10. Background Papers

None.

Contact Officer: Shaun Taylor, Community Services Manager